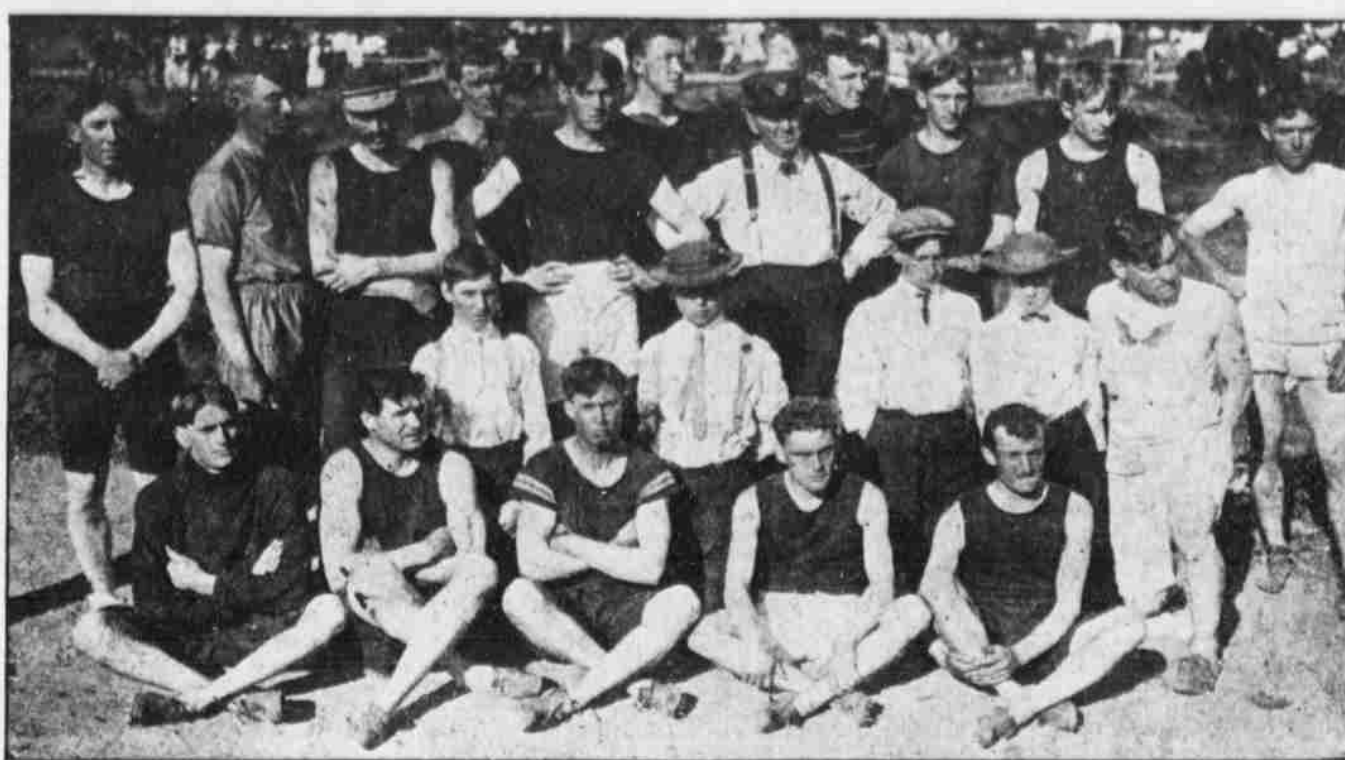


Firemen's Tournaments as Sport and Stimulus to Amateur Athletics



WINNERS OF THE COUPLING CONTEST.



NEOLA TEAM THAT WON STATE RACE AND BELT.



STARTER IN FLAG RACE, ONE OF THE NOVELTIES.

THE twenty-seventh annual state tournament of the Iowa Firemen's association is a thing of the past and was a success in every way. The number of out-of-town visitors in Council Bluffs was up to the expectations of the most sanguine and the heavens smiled graciously upon the tournament of the two big days and all of the events were run off without a squabble or any discord whatever.

Some of the events were new to the old-time firemen and most of them were old, but all were enjoyed to the fullest by the thousands who daily attended the meetings, which were held at the old Union park, Council Bluffs, which has been the scene of so many and various contests. All sorts of races and ball games have been played and run on these historic grounds, but none ever turned away better satisfied crowds than those who "drilled" to the car line after the races last Wednesday and Thursday.

There was interest in all of the events, not only from the fact that they were all real contests of skill, but also because every member of the different teams had

some sister or sweetheart or wife in the grandstand who was especially interested in that particular event. No series of contests has so many participants as one of these firemen's tournaments, where there are teams representing so many different towns and sections of a big state like Iowa. Rival towns may have their petty quarrels when at home, but when they journey to a distant part of the state, the residents are sure to pull for the men that they know and such was the case at the firemen's tournament just completed. If an accident of any kind happened to some member of a team there was sure to be expressions of sympathy from all sections and if a team made a good record the applause was sure to be deafening. Every contestant had scores of rooters, either from personal grounds or because he came from the same town or a neighboring town.

Paid Departments a Feature.

These meets have been uniformly successful ever since the paid departments were taken into the fold and justly so, too, for there is not a more thrilling event in

the sporting contest line than the races between the different paid fire departments' teams. It is in a way a novelty to all. How many, even in the city of Omaha, have been privileged to witness the quick exit of the fire department horses from the houses when starting for a fire? In this event at the tournament the men are compelled to be in bed in plain sight of the crowd, and when the gong sounds they jump from their beds, slide down the pole as the horses emerge from their stalls, hitch the horses and then run for half a mile, when the hose is unreeled and a coupling made while the horses are still at full run. Could anything be more exciting?

Spirit of the Volunteer.

Universities have their finely equipped gymnasiums and their athletic field, where the youth of the country is trained to meet the students of other colleges in contests of all sorts, as foot ball, base ball, track meets and regattas and the larger cities offer different kinds of ways for the young men to work off the superfluous energy, and so the smaller towns have adopted

this manner of working up town spirit to take the same position with them as the college spirit of the collegian. A small town needs a volunteer fire department, and to get it the generous citizens of the place have to offer inducements of different kinds for the youth to take an interest in the work. Entertainments of various kinds are given by the women and the men to raise money to equip the boys so that when they go forth into the world they will have as fine uniforms as any other town representatives.

When the department is fully organized and has joined the state association the real work begins, for it would not do to have some other town of the same size have a better team or even a better equipped team than "our boys." So some inducement is offered by the generous citizens of the place for some well known athlete or trainer to locate in the town and a good position is given him, so that he will have plenty of time to put the boys through their stunts and to daily train them for the state meet. How many of the larger universities but what would give a great deal to have some of the runners

who took part in the tournament across the river last week? It takes a man of speed and endurance, trained to the highest pitch to make some of those runs with the heavy reels. The boys realize this after they have attended a tournament or two, and have had to return home without a semblance of a prize. They then begin to plan for the next season and do all sorts of stunts with the sole idea in view of conditioning themselves for the test of strength and endurance which is sure to come with the next state meet.

Effect at Home.

As the time of the meet rolls around some of the leading merchants begin to get nervous for fear that Bill will not be able to hold his own when the final trial comes and then agents are sent to scour the country for fast, strong runners that the rest of the team may not be handicapped by the inability of Bill to get in trim. The time for the meet comes and the whole town prepares to journey to the meeting point to root for the boys who have trained so long and faithfully that

the reputation of the home town may be maintained. Fathers, mothers and sweethearts are in the stand, and woe to the boy who does not hold his own. He will be the talk of the town for the next year if he fails, but if he wins he will be pointed to with pride whenever a stranger comes to town.

One of the Novelties.

The flag race is a newly added to the contests and is an interesting event for every man must run fifty yards by himself and if he fails to grasp the flag at the right time he is apt to lose the time that will cost the race. This race is to be run from two lines fifty yards apart; one-half of each team to be placed on each line, facing each other. The first man on the right of the starting line to have flag, and at the word "Go!" to carry and deliver it to the first man on the right of the second line, until each man has carried it his fifty yards. Team to be composed of eighteen men. Time to be taken when the last man crosses his fifty-yard mark, and no man is to leave his line until in possession of the

flag; otherwise he will be declared foul and out.

The novelty hose race was one of the interesting features of the meet and many of the companies fell down because they did not carry out the conditions of the race as they should. The rules governing this contest are that the teams are to run with cart 300 feet to hydrant, lay 30 feet of hose, uncoil fourth section, drop back and take out second section, put in fourth section, attach pipe to end of third section. Association rules to govern. Hose sections numbered in order they leave the cart. City in which tournament is held to furnish hose for race.

The ladder climbing contest did not have as many entries as it should as there is a splendid chance to show training and skill in this event, the conditions of which are that the runner must run fifty feet, climb a thirty-foot ladder, ladder to lay on ground, till start is made, raise ladder not less than 40 degrees; time to be taken when climber reaches the top rung, climber to hold rung until time is called. Climber will be allowed four men to raise ladder.



COUNCIL BLUFFS TEAM IN THE PAID DEPARTMENT RACE.

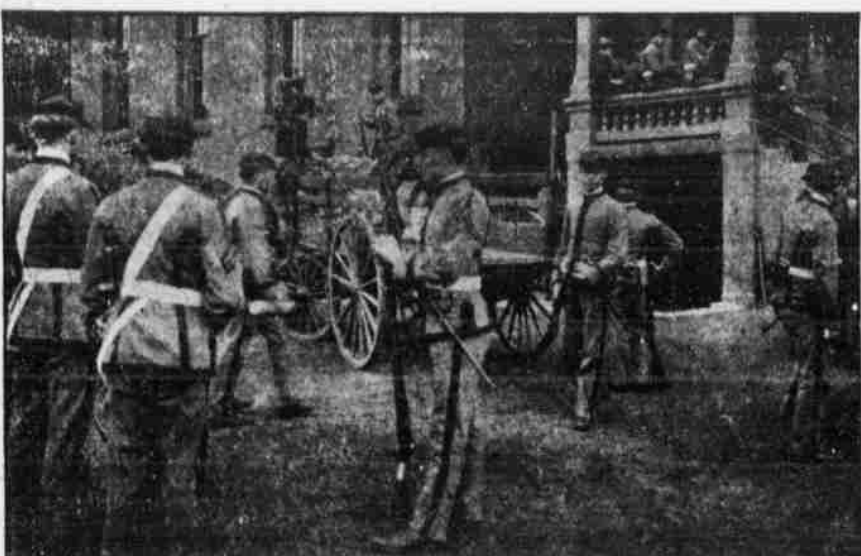


AMATEUR HOSE TEAM IN THE NOVELTY RACE.

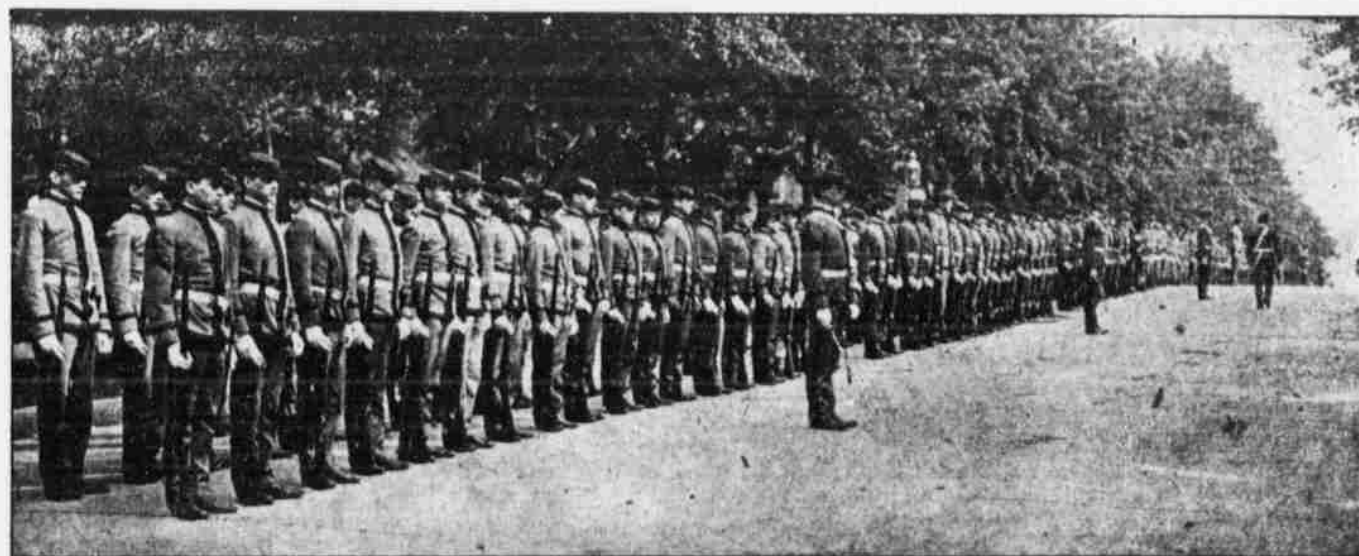


DES MOINES TEAM THAT WON THE PAID DEPARTMENT RACE AND MADE A WORLD'S RECORD.

Military Training an Important Part of the Omaha High School Course



LOADING SUPPLIES FOR THE CAMP.



HIGH SCHOOL BATTALION IN LINE JUST BEFORE STARTING FOR CAMP.



GIRLS SAY GOODBYE TO "SOLDIERS."

MILITARY instruction in the Omaha High school was begun in March, 1894, under authority of the secretary of war, Lieutenant Julius A. Penn of the Second United States Infantry, being detailed as instructor. It has continued since with increasing popularity. Co-ordinate with the growth of the school the cadets belonging to the battalion have advanced from 166 to about 420. At the start no extra compensation was allowed the army officer, whose title has been changed from "military instructor" to that of commandant, but he now receives a monthly salary of \$50 from the school district during the school year. With the shifting of troops at Fort Omaha and later at Fort Crook, when the former was abandoned, the commandant has changed frequently. The officer now in charge, Captain R. R. Stogsdall of the Thirtieth Infantry, has been commandant for more than a year. In the main, the plan of military training at the high school has not varied since instituted, but drill has been made compulsory if the student is not excused for cause, and it is now part of the curriculum, counting a possible four points toward the thirty-two necessary to obtain a first-class diploma. Certain minor changes have been made, but drill and instruction still takes place twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1:30 to 3:15 o'clock in the afternoon. At the start, arms and the customary cadet accoutrements were not provided. Now these are furnished by the school district, the privates being armed with a small pattern Springfield rifle and the officers with the regulation infantry sword. The band, hospital corps and signal corps, are also developments of the eleven years.

Education to abolish it. On the other hand, the feeling at the present time is that the requirements demanding that every boy take his full share of drill and instruction should be made more rigid, and it is anticipated that measures along this line will be taken by the board this year. The percentage of boys at the school who belong to the battalion is about sixty-five out of every hundred. For the year just ending 766 boys are enrolled, but only about 460 are cadets. The remaining 306 per cent have been excused for various reasons. The regulations on the subject read:

Will be Extended.

The cadet feature of high school training in Omaha is regarded as fixed. There is no disposition in the faculty or the Board of

Education to abolish it. On the other hand, the feeling at the present time is that the requirements demanding that every boy take his full share of drill and instruction should be made more rigid, and it is anticipated that measures along this line will be taken by the board this year. The percentage of boys at the school who belong to the battalion is about sixty-five out of every hundred. For the year just ending 766 boys are enrolled, but only about 460 are cadets. The remaining 306 per cent have been excused for various reasons. The regulations on the subject read:

form and from military drill may be granted by the commandant of the cadet battalion, but only upon the proper showing of the necessity for such excuse and with the approval of the principal of the high school.

Uniforms cost about \$15 complete, consisting of the regulation West Point gray blouse and trousers and blue cap. The privilege of selling all the uniforms is awarded to a single firm yearly by competitive bidding, and all cadets are required to buy the suits from the designated dealer. In this way prices are kept low and a standard of material and workmanship maintained.

Exemption from Drill.

Five excuses are recognized as warranting exemption from drill. If a parent says he is unable to buy a uniform for his boy the lad is excused, because the existence of an ununiformed company at the high school has been found to be highly detrimental and humiliating to all concerned. If a boy presents a certificate from a physician to the effect that it is not thought good for his physical condition to drill, the boy does not drill. If it is necessary for him to work in the afternoon, beginning shortly after school closes, whether it be for his own support or to contribute to that of his family, drill is passed up, because usage and experience has taught the principal that he comes pretty nearly having no alternative, it having been demonstrated time and again that no pupil can be required to study any special subject unless he is inclined or wants a diploma. Again, if a parent thinks he can have his boy use his time to better advantage than in drill, the boy does not drill. Lastly, if the family objects to military practice and instructions for conscientious or political reasons, it is considered valid grounds for an excuse.

Prejudice against training in arms is not strong in Omaha. There is about one protest a year for religious or conscientious reasons, and in the last six years there has been one objection based on political opinions. The father who would not let his son be a cadet in the case last named

was a socialist. Of the others one was a Christian clergyman, one or two followers of Tolstoy, and the others merely had a deep hatred of war and did not believe in encouraging the spirit toward a liking of the science.

Some Do Not Like It.

Of the 35 per cent of the high school boys who do not drill most of them squirm out of it because they don't like the hour's vigorous exercise on the campus twice a week and the occasional evolutions in extended order and participation in parades. Not a few of these are the very lads who most need some kind of setting-up culture. They bring such absurd excuses as a youth who weighed 175 pounds and looked in perfect health, who explained that something was wrong with the tear glands of his eyes and the doctor thought, upon interrogation, that it might be best not to drill. The majority of those exempted are boys who carry papers or do other work after school and who declare the drill interferes. The matter is chiefly a thing of the spirit and desire is shown by the fact that many of the best cadets and officers are lads who deliver the evening editions and labor just as much, if not more, than the "slouchers." It is to meet such conditions as these that stricter regulations are to be prescribed by the Board of Education, upon the earnest recommendation of Captain Stogsdall and other members of the faculty. It is probable that the rule will take the effect of requiring certain setting-up exercises and physical culture drills from boys who will not be cadets; that the drill will be a luxury compared with it.

Strength of the Battalion.

The battalion at the present time consists of six companies of approximately fifty men each, the band, hospital and signal corps and staff officers and orderlies. Instruments for the band, of about fifteen members, are provided by the district, and during the last year Emil Reichardt, a former bandmaster of the regular army, was employed as instructor. Under his tutelage, and with the stimulus of the new instruments, the musicians have made rapid

progress. The hospital corps has about ten cadets in it and the signal corps about fifteen. Each company has a captain, two lieutenants, five sergeants and four corporals. There is a staff lieutenant, who acts as adjutant; a sergeant major, quartermaster sergeant and a color sergeant. Several noncommissioned cadets are attached to the staff as clerks and orderlies.

Training is Thorough.

In addition to the drilling Commandant Stogsdall gives a monthly lecture on various pertinent subjects. No text books are provided by the schools. Officers and ambitious cadets study the manual of arms, tactics and works on military theory and practice, under the direction of the commandant. Five years ago the annual encampment was added at the end of the school year and from the start it was excessively popular. For one week in June the whole battalion goes into camp in the field and lives under regular army discipline and routine, learning in the meantime much important information regarding the real life of the soldier. As cadets cannot go to camp unless they have successfully carried three studies, the reward stimulates effort in the classes. Money for the outing is raised by small assessments upon the cadets, entertainments given by the battalion and the contributions of fathers and other citizens who are interested. It now requires about \$1,000 to defray the expenses of the week in camp.

Social Side of the Drill.

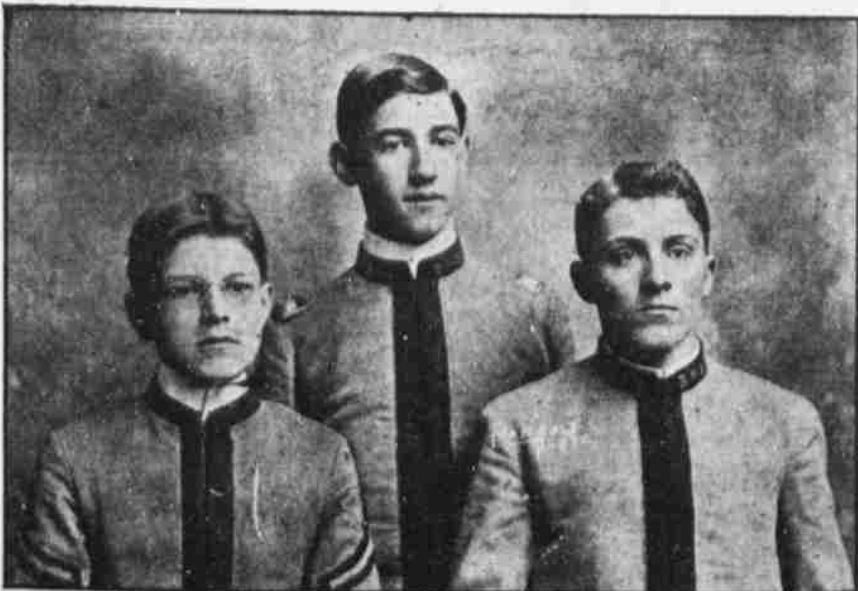
A social outgrowth of the battalion is the Cadet Officers' club, which devotes considerable attention to the business of warfare as well as pleasure. The giving of an expensive annual hop by this organization was the incubation of the encampment, which was substituted, the faculty deeming the hop had from several standpoints. In general the annual encampment has proved a good and useful thing, best appreciated in some respects by parents, who are conscious of certain periods in a boy's life when he has an intense desire to shake off home restraint and butt into the world. After the encampment each year competitive drills for companies and individuals are held in public and medals and pennants awarded to the winners.

The Barber Gives His Views of "Baldhead"

YES," remarked the barber, "I have had considerable experience with baldheaded men, but I don't propose to discuss the subject unless I'm urged. Nobody can go out of this shop and complain that I talk him to death."

Having been urged the barber continued: "I never could understand why men who lose their hair make so much fuss over it. Most of them wouldn't be beautiful if they had tresses that they could braid and do up high on their heads. But I can't remember that I ever met one who didn't behave as if he was spoiled for life when his hair fell out and to their last gasp they'll grasp at any kind of a tonic or restorer as drowning people will climb into a boat. What's more they all deceive themselves into

thinking that they're improving under treatment. First and last, I've used tanks of washes and discoveries on them. "Do any of them come up and restorer? None of them is satisfactory, to tell the truth. Now and then I run across a scalp that isn't entirely dead to the world and I manage to induce a growth; but it is disappointing. It's a downy, fluffy growth and it doesn't match in length or color what's left of the original crop. On top a man'll look as if he'd just broken the shell—just been born—and on his neck and around his ears he'll look every minute of 60 years old. The effect is very peculiar and laughable. On the whole, however, there's but one thing for a baldheaded man to do, and that's to be a brave, bold, baldheaded man."—Providence Journal.



HOWARD DIXON, GROVER AKER AND O'CONNOR SMITH.

Object of the Drill.

Military instruction and drill is established at the high school for four reasons: First, to give the boys a setting up or physical culture drill systematically with a view of improving their physical condition, it being thought that the inherent love of youth for the panoply of war would make the scheme attractive; second, to teach in-